



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 45080, Olympia, Washington 98504-5080

January 4, 2006

R.J. Ruff, Regional Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
2201 Sixth Avenue, Ms/Rx-44
Seattle, Washington 98121

Dear Mr. Ruff:

As you know, Washington State has been working with tribes over the past several months to develop a Tribal Medicaid Administrative Match (MAM) Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) for submission to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

We appreciate CMS' willingness to extend the deadline for the current tribal MAM contracts as we have negotiated the issues surrounding the Cost Allocation Plan. We are pleased to report that a final draft plan was agreed to by state and tribal representatives at a consultation meeting held December 13, 2005.

As the state and tribes look toward formally submitting the Cost Allocation Plan for CMS approval in the coming weeks, we would like to schedule a joint state/tribal briefing with you and other Region X officials to discuss the Plan's contents, including the time study methodology we are proposing.

The state team will include Assistant Secretary Doug Porter and three technical staff, and the tribal team will include two to three tribal leaders and approximately six technical staff persons. We are requesting that, in addition to you, the following Region X staff attend: Region X Administrator James Whitfield, Karen O'Connor, Treva Wornath, Ernie Kimball, and Liz Trias.

We look forward to having the opportunity to present the draft Tribal MAM CAP to CMS and to describe how tribes and the state collaboratively developed the CAP in a government-to-government manner. We also believe that the meeting will be a valuable opportunity to answer any immediate questions that you or your staff may have.

We hope that you will be able to accommodate this request for a meeting between January 23 and February 2, 2006, at the CMS Region X office.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request. My assistant Debbie Meyer will be in touch with your office to coordinate the meeting logistics.

Sincerely,



Doug Porter, Assistant Secretary
Health & Recovery Services Administration



Liz Mueller, Chair
Indian Policy Advisory Committee



Pearl Capoeman-Baller, Chair
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board



Marilyn Scott, Chair
American Indian Health Commission
for WA State

cc: James Whitfield, Region X Administrator, DHHS
Karen O'Connor
John Lynch
Ernie Kimball
Liz Trias
Treva Wornath